

Renewable Energy Question 34: How many states with RPS standards have (a) achieved the standard, (b) modified the standard, and (c) frozen compliance due to cost or other factors?

Summary:

1. Three states (Iowa, Maine, and Texas) have achieved their renewable portfolio standard (RPS). No state has failed to meet its RPS and compliance is generally on track although the compliance history is somewhat limited.
2. A large majority of states with RPS (24 out of 30, including the District of Columbia) have modified their RPS policies. In most cases, these modifications increased the overall target, created targets for specific technologies such as solar, or clarified or updated the eligible technologies.
3. No state has frozen its RPS. RPS policies in several states, namely Kansas, Missouri, and Ohio, are under review by the state legislature.

Background:

1. **Three states (Iowa, Maine, and Texas) have surpassed their renewable portfolio standard (RPS). No state has failed to meet its RPS and compliance is generally on track, although the compliance history is somewhat limited.**

Iowa, Texas, and Maine all surpassed their initial RPSs. Both Texas and Maine increased their targets and Texas already surpassed the revised standard. Maine's initial RPS of 30% by 2020 was primarily met with existing renewables; the state's revised RPS of 10% by 2017 applies only to new renewable resources and has not yet been met.

No state has failed to meet its RPS and compliance is generally on track based on available data. A few states appear to have experienced compliance challenges recently, as discussed further under Renewable Energy Question 7.

Most RPSs have compliance deadlines in 2020 or beyond. Five states have a 2015 timeline like Michigan's. Given the long lead time in a number of states, the compliance history is somewhat limited. Exhibit 1 groups states by the number of major compliance years completed. For example, Michigan's first compliance year was in 2012 even though the RPS was passed in 2008. The majority have had four years or less of experience. It is expected that compliance issues, if any, would arise in the latter years. Thus, it is a little too early to assess whether the states with aggressive standards will have challenges in meeting them.

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EXHIBIT 1. Number of Major Compliance Years Completed, as of 2011



SOURCE: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, <http://www.cleanenergystates.org/assets/Uploads/2011-RPS-Summit-Combined-Presentations-File.pdf>.

2. A large majority of states with RPSs (24 out of 30, including the District of Columbia) have modified their RPS policies.

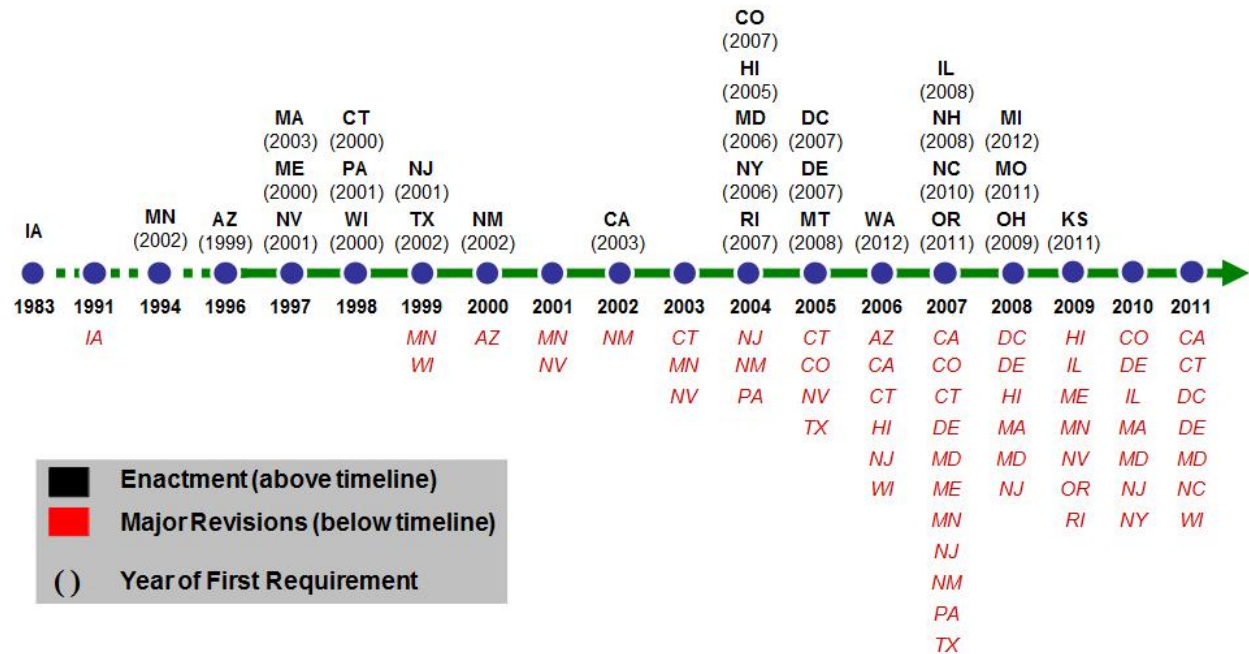
Exhibit 2 shows the initial enactment and revisions to state RPSs. Some states have revised their RPS on several occasions. In most cases, these modifications increased the overall target, included new targets for specific technologies, or modified eligible technologies by expanding the list or clarifying definitions of the existing list.

3. No state has frozen its RPS.

RPS policies in several states such as Kansas, Missouri, and Ohio are under review by the state legislature. As renewable development continues to scale up across the states with an RPS, suspensions or delays could become an issue in some jurisdictions or for particular providers, especially those with aggressive targets.

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EXHIBIT 2. Timeline of State RPS Enactment and Major Revisions



SOURCE: <http://www.cleanenergystates.org/assets/Uploads/2011-RPS-Summit-Combined-Presentations-File.pdf>